

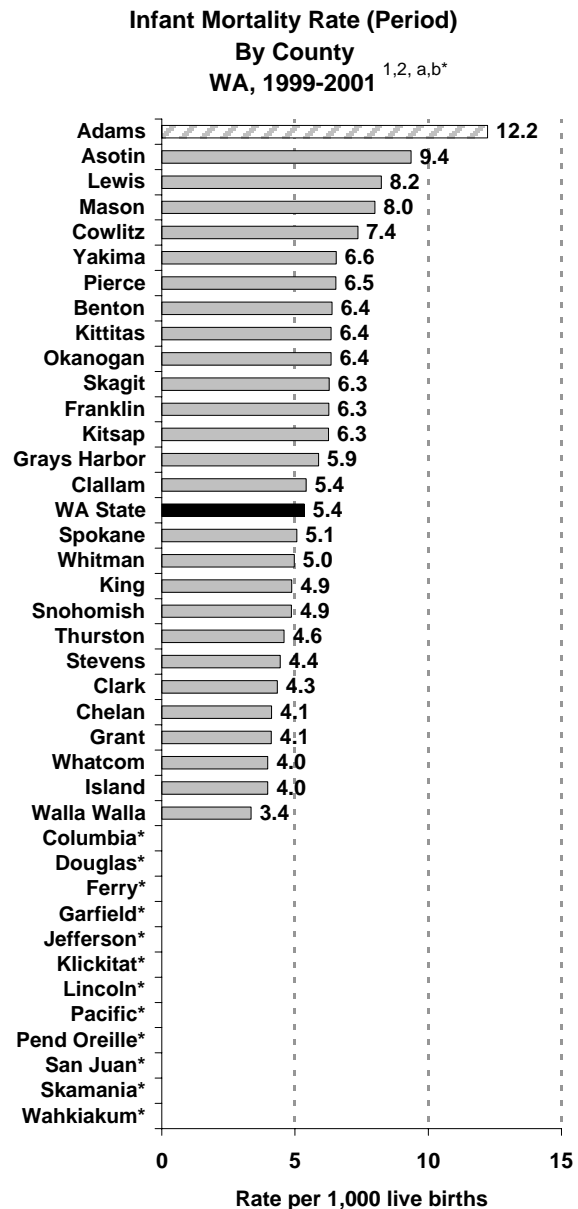
Infant Mortality

Definition: Infant mortality is the death of a child under one year of age. These deaths are often divided into two groupings: *neonatal* mortality (death of an infant within the first 27 days of life) and *Postneonatal* mortality (death of an infant of 28-364 days of age). Period rates are the number of deaths in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year.

Key Findings

- ❖ In 2001, 461 Washington State infants died in their first year of life. The infant mortality rate (IMR) for 2001 was 5.8 per 1,000 live births, compared to a 2001 national rate of 6.9 per 1,000 live births.^{1,2,3,5}
- ❖ Washington's IMR has declined significantly over the past decade, from 7.8 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 5.2 in 2000. In 2001, infant mortality increased to 5.8 per 1,000 live births. This trend is consistent with the national pattern.^{1,2,3,5}
- ❖ The three leading causes of infant death in Washington in 2001 were congenital anomalies (26%), Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (13%), and short gestation/ low birth weight (11%).^{1,2,3}
- ❖ Infant mortality rates were highest for Blacks, American Indian/ Alaska Natives, Non-Hispanics, teen mothers and mothers age forty and over, male infants, and Grant recipients.^{1,2,3,6}
- ❖ The Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than 4.5 per 1,000 live births.⁴

County

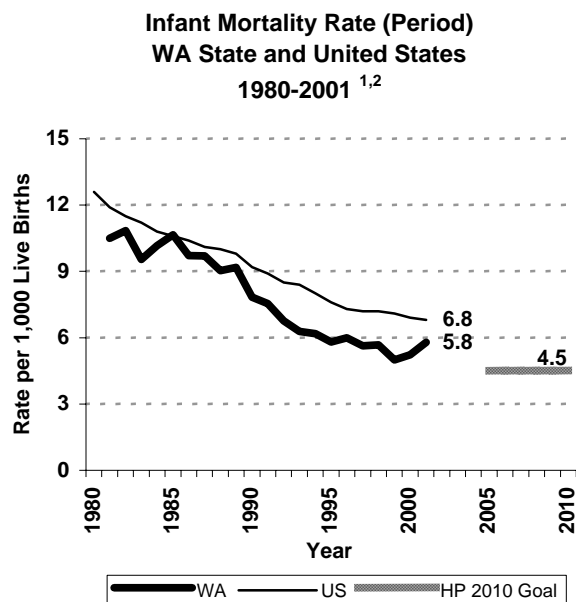


*County rates not calculated if less than 5 events

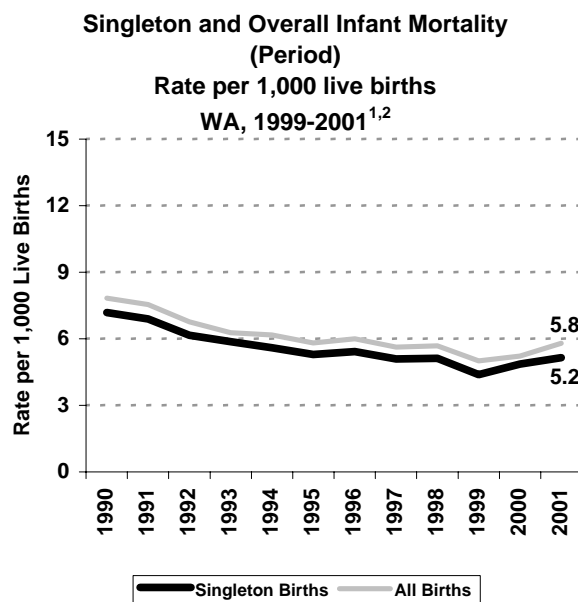
Significantly different from state rate

Infant Mortality (cont.)

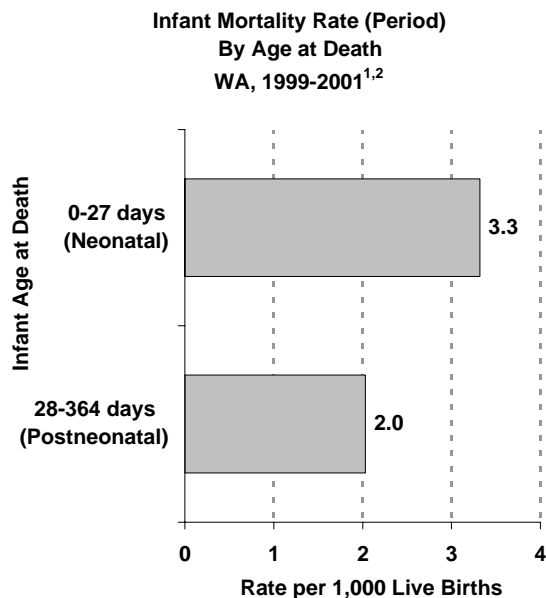
Trend



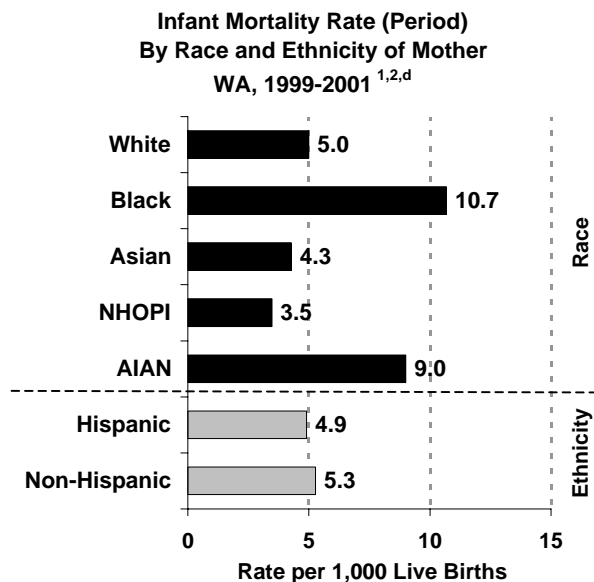
Singleton Infant Mortality



Infant Age

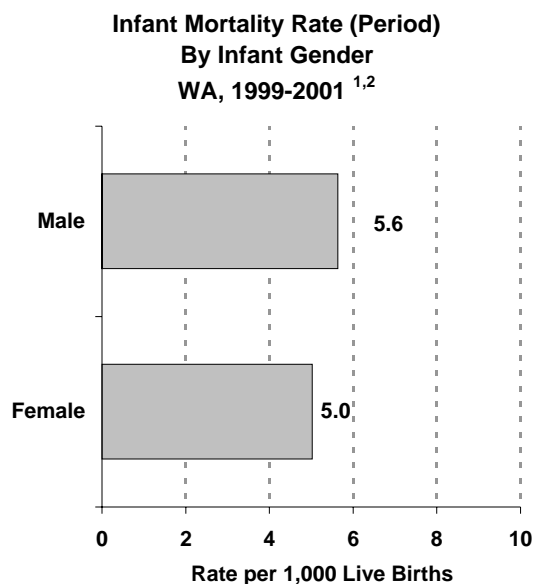


Race and Ethnicity

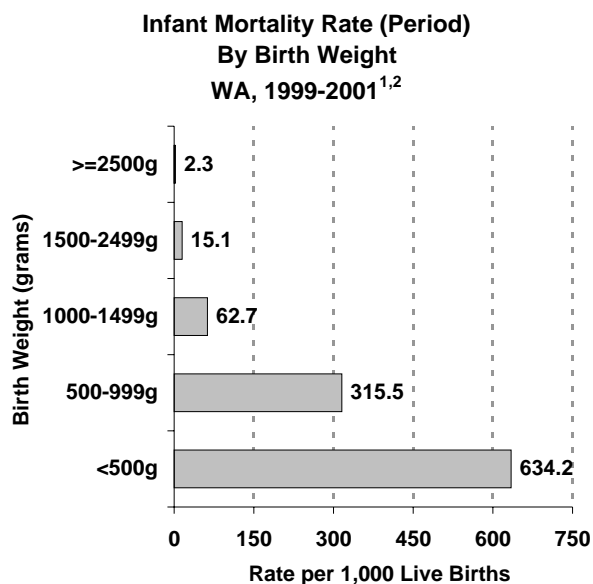


Infant Mortality (cont.)

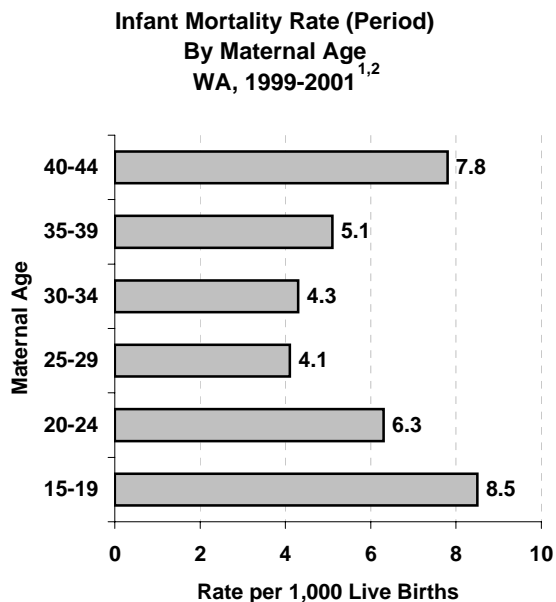
Infant Gender



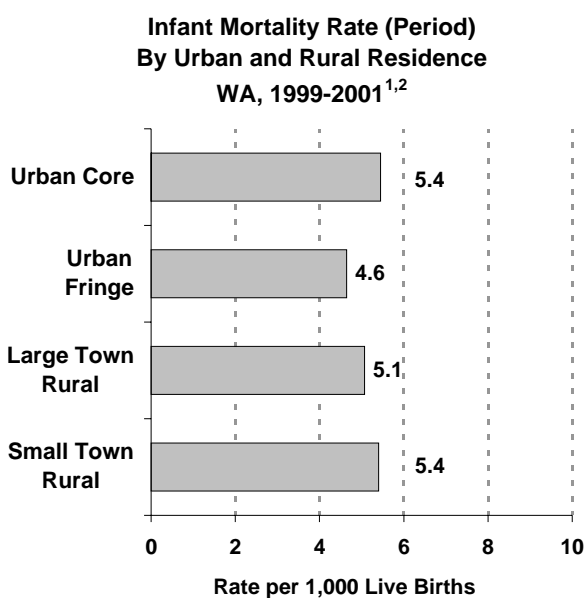
Birth Weight



Mother's Age

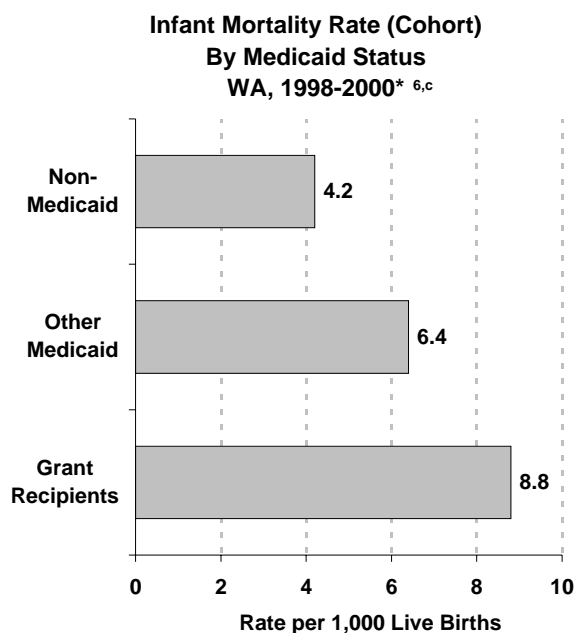


Rural and Urban Residence



Infant Mortality (cont.)

Medicaid Status



*Medicaid women had either prenatal care or delivery paid by Medicaid. Medicaid women include those who are very low income and receive cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid [**Grant Recipients**] and those who receive Medicaid with no cash assistance [**Other Medicaid**].

Data Sources

- ¹ Washington State death certificate data: Vital Statistics 2001, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, December 2002.
- ² Washington State birth certificate data: Vital Statistics 2001, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, December 2002.
- ³ Analysis Software: Public Health - Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning & Evaluation, Software for Public Health Assessment (VistaPHw), 1991-.
- ⁴ Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health, US Department of Health and Human Services, Washington DC US Government Printing Office, 2000.
- ⁵ National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 51, No. 5, March 14, 2003 .
- ⁶ Cawthon L, Infant Mortality Rates for Washington Births by Year of Birth. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, First Steps Database, 6/11/03.

Endnotes

- ^a Significance was determined based on 95% Confidence Intervals.
- ^b Period Infant Mortality Rate uses infant deaths in a given year as the numerator and infant births in the same year as the denominator.
- ^c Cohort Infant mortality rates look at the experience of a birth cohort. The denominator includes all births in a specified year (cohort) and the numerator is the deaths that occurred to that cohort in the first year of life.